Herkimer County IDA
Industrial Development Agency

MINUTES

September 23, 2026

STAFF

JOHN J. PISECK, JR.
Chief Executive Officer

VICTORIA L. ADAMS
Operations Manager

NICOLE A. FARBER
Administrative Office Assistant

SAMANTHA F. CANARELLI
Marketing & Communications Specialist

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Herkimer County Legislator

COUNSEL

ANTHONY G. HALLAK, Esq.
Felt Evans, LLP

Special:
CHARLES MALCOLM, Esq.
SHANNON WAGNER, Esq.
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Herkimer County Industrial Development Agency Board of Directors Meeting

The Herkimer County Industrial Development Agency held regular meeting of the Board of Directors, on Wednesday, September 23, 2026, at 8:00 am. The meeting was held electronically via Zoom conference as well as a public meeting open for the public to attend in person. Members of the public were invited to join the meeting virtually by going to www.zoom.com or by dialing (929) 205-6099 and entering ID: 875-6466-4800 and passcode: 402411. Members of the public were invited to attend the meeting in person in the Herkimer County Chamber of Commerce conference room at 420 E. German Street, Herkimer, NY 13350.

Chairman Vincent (Jim) Bono led the Pledge of Allegiance, and called the meeting to order at 8:00 am

Mr. Bono welcomed new Board Member Herkimer County Legislator, Peter Campione.

The following members were present in person and answered the roll call: Vincent (Jim) Bono, Frank Mendl, Cory Albrecht, Dr. Terri Grates Day, Ann Gaworecki, Robert Davenport, and Peter J. Campione. **A quorum was present (7)**

Members Absent: none

Agency Staff Present: John Piseck, Victoria Adams, Nicole Farber and Samantha Canarelli.

Also Present in Person: Alvin Montana II, Herkimer County Administrator; Kathy Glanovsky, Herkimer County Chamber of Commerce; Herkimer County Legislators Anthony J. Lucenti and Greg Malta; and Billy Payne, Local 190, who joined the meeting at 8:07 a.m.

Also Present Virtually: One unidentified caller and Elaine Sperbeck, a Herkimer County resident, who joined the meeting at 8:40 a.m.

Mission Statement: Samantha Canarelli read the Agency's Mission Statement.

Minutes: The meeting minutes of the board meeting on August 25, 2026 were offered for review. **Peter Campione moved, seconded by Robert Davenport to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried with 7 ayes and 0 nays.**

Minutes: The meeting minutes of the special board meeting on August 31, 2026 were offered for review. **Cory Albrecht moved, seconded by Robert Davenport to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried with 7 ayes and 0 nays.**

Financial Reports: August Financial Reports: The August 2026 Financial Report, Balance Sheet, Check Register, and PILOT Report were reviewed. After discussion. **Dr. Terri Grates Day moved, seconded by Ann Gaworecki to approve all financial reports as presented. The motion carried with 7 ayes and 0 nays.**

Cost Benefit Analysis: Victoria Adams provided the Board with an overview of the software utilized by the Agency through MRB Group to complete Cost Benefit Analyses. The software allows the Agency to enter applicant information from financial assistance applications and generate project-specific cost-benefit data for review. **This item was for discussion only.**

New CRM Software John Piseck provided the Board with an update regarding the Agency's new CRM software. The Agency anticipates transitioning to the new software at the beginning of the year. **This item was for discussion only.**

Marketing Update: Samantha Canarelli provided the Board with an update on the Agency's marketing activities, including social media performance and analytics. She highlighted the Agency's top-performing social media post and reviewed recent engagement results. Samantha also provided an update on the Agency's website redesign and presented a mock-up of the proposed new homepage for the Board's review. **This item was for discussion only.**

Daneli Update: John Piseck provided an update on the Daneli Program. The Agency secured assistance through Herkimer County Community College and received grant approval to offset a portion of the program costs. To qualify for the grant, the number of sessions was reduced from nine to six. The total grant award is $20,900.00, with the Agency responsible for $6,000.00 of the program costs. **This item was for discussion only.**

Herkimer DRI Small Project Grant: John Piseck provided the Board with an update following the Agency's recent call with New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) regarding questions related to the DRI Small Project Grant process. The Agency will establish a committee to review and approve applicants. The Agency also plans to move forward with engaging a consultant to provide additional assistance to business owners and support the Agency in administering the grant program. **This item was for discussion only.**

Schuyler Business Park Update: John Piseck provided the Board with an update on ongoing activities at the Schuyler Business Park.

- **Surplus Property:** The Agency is working with Anthony Hallak of Felt Evens to transfer an easement involving a portion of the former Route 5 property to the Agency. Approximately 3.2 acres remain available, and the Agency is evaluating potential uses and development options for the remaining property. **This item was for discussion only.**

- **Sewer Study:** The sewer study is moving forward, and the number of pumps required for the project has been reduced. While the project remains costly, a group meeting will be scheduled in the near future to discuss next steps. All parties involved remain supportive of moving the

project forward. The Agency will continue working with Wright-Pierce, the project consultant. **This item was for discussion only.**

- **Water Tower:** Bids for the water tower project were received and came in significantly higher than anticipated. The Agency will no longer be working with Delta Engineering and will explore other options for engineering and project support. The Water Authority may also have recommendations regarding potential alternatives and next steps. **This item was for discussion only.**

Alvin Montana II, Herkimer County Administrator, excused himself from the meeting at 8:48 a.m.

Village of Dolgeville Easement: The Agency received approval from the Office of General Services (OGS) to proceed with the easement. The Agency will issue a $1,700.00 payment to obtain the easement, which will provide a connection from the rear of the property to the Village of Dolgeville. The Agency also continues to work with the Water Authority regarding the proposed water tank at the Manheim Business Park. **This item was for discussion only.**

Herkimer Court House: The Agency was approached by local officials regarding the potential transfer of the Herkimer Courthouse property on Main Street to the Agency. The Agency would like to have further discussions with the Herkimer County Historical Society regarding the property and develop a plan for consideration by the Board before proceeding with any additional action.

John Piseck also discussed other potential properties that could be considered for hospitality-related uses, including the former County Highway Garage, which has an estimated appraisal value of approximately $750,000 to $850,000, and the Mohawk Homestead, which has an estimated appraisal value of approximately $800,000. **This item was for discussion only.**

FOIL Request: The Agency received a Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request from a local resident and has been gathering the requested records and information. The requested materials were due September 24, 2026; however, the Agency determined that an extension would be necessary to allow additional time to compile the requested information. Ann Gaworecki, a Board member, asked who submitted the request. John Piseck advised that the request was submitted by Diane Engell, a Village of Ilion Trustee. **This item was for discussion only.**

Cold Storage Feasibility Study: The Agency applied for a National Grid grant to support a Cold Storage Feasibility Study and was approved for funding covering 50% of the total project cost. The total cost of the study is $32,000.00, with the National Grid grant providing $16,000.00 in funding. **This item was for discussion only.**

Election of Treasurer: With Tim Day stepping down from the Board, the position of Treasurer became vacant. John Piseck recommended Ann Gaworecki to serve as Treasurer. Victoria Adams reviewed the duties and responsibilities of the position with the Board, and Ann Gaworecki accepted the appointment. **Dr. Terri Grates Day moved, seconded by Frank Mendl to appoint Ann. The motion carried with 7 ayes and 0 nays.** ***Resolution 092326-01***

HCIDA vs. Barton & Loguidice: John Piseck provided an update to the Board regarding the matter. The Agency has received requests for emails and is working with its IT department to gather the requested

information. Documents have been provided to legal counsel for review. Additional meetings are being scheduled as the matter progresses. The communities are working to restore water service, and the Water Authority is working to bring water from Utica to serve the five affected communities. The Agency's involvement was limited to assisting with the water transmission line. **This item was for discussion only.**

Village of Ilion: Chairman Vincent (Jim) Bono informed the Board that he has reached out to newly elected Village of Ilion Mayor David Murray to arrange an informal meeting with a small group of individuals and the Village of Ilion Trustees. The meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss current and future projects in the Village, clarify processes, and discuss plans moving forward. Chairman Bono noted that there has been misinformation circulating within the community and that the meeting will serve as a workshop-style discussion. The Village of Ilion and the Agency remain committed to maintaining transparency and open communication.

Comments from Elected Officials Welcome: None.

Project Updates:

- Duofold Closing
- A Night with Bob Casullo – Thursday, September 24th @6PM
- Economic Forum – Micron, LaBella and HCIDA County Wide BOA Grant - October 1st 9am-11am
- USDA Visit – October 15th
- EDC Conference

Being no other business, Cory Albrecht moved, seconded by Dr. Terri Grates Day to adjourn at 9:08am. The motion carried with 7 ayes and 0 nays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Farber
Administrative Assistant